

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, and 10-17 were previously pending in this application. In accordance with the foregoing, various claims have been amended. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 5-8, and 10-17 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 5 is amended herein to overcome the objection. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome.

III. RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

The Applicant addresses the Examiner's response to arguments in sections IV thru IX below.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 5-8 AND 10-17 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5-8 and 10-17 are amended to overcome the rejection. The Examiner stated the limitation "... a plurality of predetermined different correlated operation instructions that correspond to the predetermined event, the plurality of predetermined different correlated operation instructions correspond to a plurality of different chat device destinations to operate image representations and/or physical representations of chat participants that are linked to or installed in the chat device destinations ...," found in claim 5, for example, is unclear. The limitation has been amended to clarify the operation instructions correspond to both the destinations and the events. Support for the amendments is found, for example, on page 27, line 5 thru page 29, line 7 of the specification.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 5, 7, 8 AND 10-12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY SUZUKI ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,736,982).

The present invention as recited, for example, in claim 5 is amended herein to further clarify the invention. For example, claim 5 now recites in part:

“...an association table that relationally stores a predetermined event occurring in a chat space with participating chat devices, and a plurality of predetermined different correlated operation instructions that correspond to the predetermined event,
 wherein the plurality of predetermined different correlated operation instructions correspond to a plurality of different chat device destinations to operate image representations and/or physical representations of chat participants that are linked to or installed in the chat device destinations;...”

Therefore, the present invention as recited, for example, in claim 5, is amended herein to particularly clarify the feature “...a *plurality of predetermined different correlated operation instructions that correspond to the predetermined event*, wherein the plurality of predetermined different correlated operation instructions correspond to a plurality of different chat device destinations ...” The Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention, as recited, for example, in claim 5, over comes the rationale asserted in the Office Action over Suzuki et al. (Suzuki). Because Suzuki does not provide all the elements of the claimed invention and is therefore, no longer a valid grounds of rejection.

The Examiner argues on page 6, of the Office Action that Suzuki teaches a plurality of predetermined different correlated operation instructions that correspond to the predetermined event ([move instructions], citing Suzuki, col. 5 line 34-49). Thus, the Examiner asserts that Suzuki discloses different operation instructions for one event.

However, Fig. 6 of Suzuki shows a format of a move message sent from a terminal when a user moves an avatar using a joystick and the like. A message identifier MID is a predetermined number representing a message for sending position information based on a movement of the avatar (see col. 6, lines 40-47). If this MID is considered to correspond to the operation instruction in the present invention, it is obvious that only one operation instruction for event (i.e. an event that the avatar is moved) is disclosed in Suzuki. Even if a whole move

message is considered to correspond to the operation instruction, only one move message is generated for one event (*i.e.* an event that the avatar is moved). In other words, each terminal receives the same move message. This is obvious from the description in Suzuki that an updated coordinate position COV and direction of eyes γ (see col. 7, lines 46-57). In this respect, the Examiner's opinion that "each user received different instructions to display their specific view point of the virtual space and the movement therein" based on Fig. 9 of Suzuki is not correct (see fourth paragraph of page 6 of the Office Action.).

Please note that Fig. 9 of Suzuki (second embodiment) is directed to a method to generate a direct connection between two users when an eye contact occurs between them. A method to update a display on each terminal in accordance with an event occurred is basically disclosed in the first embodiment of Suzuki. In this respect, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is not correct based upon the Examiner's opinion that "each user receives different instructions to display their specific viewing point of the virtual space and the movement therein" on Fig. 9 in the second embodiment of Suzuki.

On the other hand, the present invention can send *plurality of operation instructions* for one event, as recited for example, in claim 5. For instance, when an event of "participate in a channel" occurs, an operation instruction "welcome" to a new participant and an operation instruction "greeting" to an existing participant can be sent in the present invention (see Fig. 3).

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding various differences of various other claims (*e.g.* 7, 8, and 10-12) over the cited references.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

VI. REJECTION OF CLAIM 1 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER SHIIO ET AL (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,491,743) IN VIEW OF SUZUKI ET AL.

The present invention, as recited, for example, in claim 1, provides ... *a plurality of different correlated operation instructions that correspond to the detected event in the chat space for operating the image representations and/or the physical representations of the chat participants linked or installed in the chat devices...* . The Examiner's rationale in rejecting claim 1 on page 9 of the Office Action concedes that although Shiio et al. (Shiio) shows different instructions for operating the volume of speech of each animated character, there are **no specific instructions for determining different instruction to operate the image of the**

animated character as recited, for example, in claim 1. Therefore, the Examiner relies on Suzuki, which according to the foregoing arguments concerning independent claims 5 and 10-12, also fails to disclose or suggest the same.

Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system shown by Shiio to employ the feature shown in Suzuki, because neither reference discloses or suggests all the features as recited in claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited references and is allowable.

VII. REJECTION OF CLAIM 2 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER SHIIO AND SUZUKI IN VIEW KNOWLEDGE WELL KNOWN IN THE ART.

Claim 2 is dependent from claim 1. Claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance as discussed in section VI above. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is now allowable.

VIII. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 6 AND 13 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER SUZUKI IN VIEW KNOWLEDGE KNOWN IN THE ART.

Claims 6 and 13 are dependent from claim 5. The amended claim 5 should now be allowable as discussed in section V above. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6 and 13 is now allowable.

IX. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 14-17 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER SUZUKI IN VIEW OF SHIIO.

Claims 14-17 are dependent from claim 5. The amended claim 5 should now be allowable as discussed in section V above. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14-17 are now allowable.

X. CONCLUSION


There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 10-17-05

By: 
John C. Garvey
Registration No. 28,607

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501